countries agreed to observe ceasefire on the International Border, LoC and Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in Jammu and Kashmir with effect from the midnight of November 25, 2003.

India is committed to resolve all outstanding issues with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration. There is an agreed framework of the Composite Dialogue on different issues, including Jammu and Kashmir. However, conducive atmosphere for a sustained dialogue necessarily requires an end to cross border terrorism, and dismantling of the infrastructure of support to terrorism in Pakistan.

Conservation of Hindu Culture of Indonesia

†260. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Governor of Bali had requested our Prime Minister to save Hindu culture of Indonesia during the latter's trip to Indonesia;

(b) if so, action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Facilities to the Haj Pilgrims

261. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what plan has been drawn for providing better facilities to the Haj Pilgrims for the year 2004; and

(b) whether the Ministry was consulted before changing the subsidy norms and rules and regulations for the Haj Pilgrims this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Government has continued its endeavour to improve and enhance facilities for Indian Pilgrims. A high level Government delegation led by MOS(EA) had detailed

discussions with Saudi authorities in September, 2003 and accordingly concluded agreements on Haj 2004 arrangements. A statement on measures to provide better facilities to Haj Pilgrims for the year 2004 is enclosed (See below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

Statement

Facilities to Haj Pilgrims

a. Air Operations:—To facilitate returning Haj pilgrims, the number of destinations in India, where they could return directly from Madinah has been increased from 2 in 2003 to 3 in 2004 with the help of Saudi Arabian Airlines.

b. Accommodation in Makkah:—Action has been taken to ensure that accommodation in Makkah would continue to be in buildings with lifts and space-norms as prescribed.

c. Mina stay:—Discussions have been held with the South Asian Moassassa to ensure that a greater number of pilgrims are accommodated nearer the Jamarat in Mina.

d. Communication facilities to pilgrims:—Arrangements have been made to provide communication facilities to pilgrims whereby pilgrims can communicate with their relatives, through internet.

e. Identification stickers to pilgrims:—To enable easy identification of pilgrims, stickers with Indian flags are being provided to every pilgrim, which he/she is required to display on their clothing.

f. Welfare of pilgrims:—The numbers of Doctors and Paramedical staff being deployed for Haj-2004 has been increased from 94 Doctors and 92 Paramedical staff in Haj-2003 to 105 Doctors and 110 Paramedical staff in Haj-2004.

Indians in British Jails

262. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 204 Indians are languishing in British jails; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to get them released and bring back?